

U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/003,916  
Amendment Dated March 22, 2005  
In Response to Office Action Dated December 27, 2004

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

Claim 1. (currently amended) Spherical particles of high density cobalt-manganese coprecipitated nickel hydroxide that are free of non-spherical particles of the same; wherein said cobalt-manganese coprecipitated nickel hydroxide is represented by the formula:



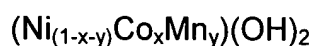
wherein  $1/10 \leq x \leq 1/3$  and  $1/20 \leq y \leq 1/3$ ; and

wherein said particles have with a tapping density of 1.5 g/cc or greater and a mean particle size in the range of 5-20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 2-4. (canceled)

Claim 5. (new currently amended) Spherical particles of high density cobalt-manganese coprecipitated nickel hydroxide that are free of non-spherical particles of the same, wherein said particles have with a tapping density of 1.5 g/cc or greater and a mean particle size in the range of 5-20  $\mu\text{m}$ , wherein said cobalt-manganese coprecipitated nickel hydroxide is represented by the formula:

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wherein  $1/10 \leq x \leq 1/3$  and  $1/20 \leq y \leq 1/3$ ;

prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

continuously supplying an aqueous solution of a nickel salt which contains a cobalt salt and a manganese salt of a complexing agent and an alkali metal hydroxide into a reactor either in an inert gas atmosphere or in the presence of a reducing agent; continuously growing crystals of said particles; and continuously removing crystals of said particles from said reactor.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The spherical particles of claim 5, wherein said reducing agent is hydrazine.